



DC Financial Gateway Express

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Insurance Licensing Brought In-House

In February 1, 2004 all insurance licensing activities were brought back into DISR's Consumer and Professional Services Division (CPSD) in partnership with State-Based System (SBS) sponsored by the National Association of Insurance Commissioner (NAIC). This move is designed to increase efficiency and to provide online electronic initial licensing, demographic updates and renewals in real-time. Currently there are over 35,000 Insurance Producers licensed in the District of Columbia. Over 30,000 Insurance Producers were renewed in 2003 using SBS. In 2004 over 130,000 insurance company appointments will renew on-line using the National Insurance Producer Registry (NIPR) through SBS. In the first 12 months of SBS over 6000 new insurance producers were licensed in the District of Columbia. Of those, 50 percent were electronically submitted. Company invoices will be posted March 15, 2004 and remain open through May 31, 2004. All companies must renew appointments by May 1, of each year.

CareFirst & GHMSI Continued

DISR has reviewed the amendments drafted by the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to the law enacted last year in Maryland that impacts the District's Blue Cross plan. We will be meeting next week with Maryland Commissioner Al Redmer to try to reach a consensus on these proposed amendments. We still do not know whether there is any chance for passage of the amendments by the Maryland legislature, but Commissioner Mirel expects to meet with leaders later this month.

You Need to Know

- **Update on the DISR-DBFI Merger** – The bill to create the Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking (DISB) was transmitted to the Mayor's office on February 18. He has until March 1 to sign it into law. We are confident that it will be signed by the deadline date; a budget hearing for the new agency has been scheduled for March 31, 2004.
- **Equal Access to Health Insurance Bill** - DISR presented a draft bill to increase the number of persons covered by health insurance.
- **DISR Oversight Hearing** – Commissioner Mirel testified at an oversight hearing before the CRA Committee last week. The presentation was well received by the Committee Chairman, Sharon Ambrose. Commissioner Mirel and his staff were able to respond to her few questions.
- **The Securities Bureau** is pleased to report that the Investor Protection Trust ("IPT") is about to receive the first of several payments from the firms that settled in the Analyst cases. DC will have access to a proportionate share of the approximately \$30M that is to be paid by the firms for Investor Education.
- **Captive Insurance** – A public hearing on the Captive Insurance Company Amendment Act of 2004, which authorizes the formation of non-profit captives is scheduled for February 26th at 10 AM. Emergency legislation is currently in effect through April 28, 2004.

A Sad Farewell to a Respected Colleague

We are saddened to report the untimely death of DISR assistant attorney/advisor Raymond V. Santora, Jr. Ray died suddenly on January 28, 2004 at his home in Annapolis, MD, he was 36 years old. A memorial service was held on February 11, 2004 and several hundred people from DISR and the District of Columbia Office of the Corporation Counsel attended. A letter of sympathy from District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams was read aloud. In addition to being our colleague, Ray was also married and a father of a one year old, Owen.

The Financial Gateway Express

The Financial Gateway Express is a monthly publication of news from the DC Dept. of Insurance & Securities Regulation. It will replace DISR's quarterly newsletter *Nation's Capital Gateway*. *The Express* will be delivered to your email inbox **the third week of each month**. Please feel free to forward to colleagues and other interested parties.